

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending. Claims 1-23 were allowed in the December 18, 2002 Office Action. By this Amendment, claims 24 and 25 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicants clarify that “said base layer is removed from said substrate by being burnt off in a glass tempering regime leaving at least one of said at least two layers of marking material applied to said substrate with a surface thereof directly in contact with said imaging surface of said substrate.” After the base layer is burnt off, at least one of the at least two layers of marking material are directly in contact with the imaging surface of the substrate. Applicants submit that amended claim 24 is definite and respectfully request the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Whitehead (U.S. Pat. No. 4,321,778) in view of Frey (U.S. Pat. No. 1,199,882). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it applies to amended claim 25. Frey discloses removal of part of the silvering of a mirror via “etching or any other suitable way.” *See* Frey, p. 1, col. 1, line 34. However, neither Frey nor Whitehead, nor a combination of their teachings, discloses or suggests, among other limitations, “(i) pre-cutting said superimposed layers with incisions and (ii) removing said portions of said initial, continuous superimposed layers of said marking material between said incisions,” as recited in amended claim 25. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claim 25.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made”**.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Appendix